

CONCLUSION.

In this enumeration and history of the principal tribes of the Animal Kingdom, we have traced in every page the footsteps of infinite Wisdom, Power, and Goodness. In our ascent from the most minute and least animated parts of that Kingdom to man himself, we have seen in every department that nothing was left to chance, or the rule of circumstances, but every thing was adapted by its structure and organization for the situation in which it was to be placed, and the functions it was to discharge; that though every being, or group of beings, had separate interests, and wants, all were made to subserve to a common purpose, and to promote a common object; and that though there was a general and unceasing conflict between the members of this sphere of beings, introducing apparently death and destruction into every part of it, yet that by this great mass of seeming evil pervading the whole circuit of the animal creation, the renewed health and vigour of the entire system were maintained. A part suffers for the benefit and salvation of the whole; so that the doctrine of the sufferings of one creature, by the will of God, being necessary to promote the welfare of another, is irrefragably established by every thing we see in nature; and further, that there is an unseen hand directing all to accomplish this great object, and taking care that the destruction shall in no case exceed the necessity. Well, then, may all finally exclaim, in the words of the Divine Psalmist:—

O Lord, how manifold are thy works, in WISDOM hast thou made them all; the earth is full of thy riches;

So is the great and wide sea also, wherein are things creeping innumerable both small and great beasts.

These wait all upon thee: that thou mayest give them meat in due season.